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Date: Oct 17, 2018

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V7CZCMLT954ILN327 UNCLASSIFIED
MULT 50251
ACTION DIA:
DISTR CJCS DJS J3:(04) J5(02) NMCC SECDEF: ASD:ISA(10) :DIA(15)
NIC(01)
SECSTATE WASH DC
C I A
NSA MCCC CMC
CSAF WASH DC
CNO WASH DC
CSA WAS DC
FILE(1)
(033)

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TRANSIT/131830Z/132024Z/001:54TOR0442023
DE RUESBA #0160 0441850
ZNY EEEEE
R 131830Z FEB 75
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
RULPAKA/193 INF BDE FT AMADOR CZ
RUEOEPA/USAFSO ALBROOK AFB CZ
RULBSAA/USNAVSO FT AMADOR CZ
BT
UNCLAS E F T O 0160 FEB 75
THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424
1, ARGENTINA
2, ARMY FORMALLY ENTERS ANTI-GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN (U)
3, N/A
4, 1975, FEB 11-12
5, 1975, FEB 12, BUENOS AIRES
6, (b)(3):10 USC 424
7, PRESS (VARIOUS)
8, (b)(3):10 USC 424
9, 1975, FEB 12
10, (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(6)
11,
12,
13,
14,
15. 1.(U) ARGENTINE ARMY HAS FORMALLY AND OFFICIALLY ENTERED THE ANTI-TERRORIST FIGHT, ACTING UNDER AUTHORITY FROM PRESIDENT SRA. PERON. ARMY, GENDARMERIE AND POLICE UNITS, UNDER ARMY

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DIRECTION, HAVE INITIATED ANOTHER LARGE-SCALE OPERATION IN TUCUMAN PROVINCE, INA ZONE SW OF CAPITAL AND INCLUDING TOWNS OF LULES (b)(3):10 USC 424, FAMAILLA (b)(3):10 USC 42, MONTEROS (2710S-6330W), CONCEPCION (b)(3):10 USC 42 AND AGUILARES (b)(3):10 USC 424, CONTINUING SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST TO THE PROVINCIAL BORDER WITH CATAMARCA PROVINCE. THIS CAMPAIGN BEGAN ON SATURDAY NIGHT, FEB 8 BUT DID NOT COME OUT IN PRESS UNTIL TUES, 11 FEB.

2. (U) THE ARMY AND GOVERNMENT HAVE TRIED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS DECISION IS IN SUPPORT OF, AND REQUIRES THE SUPPORT OF, THE PEOPLE. EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO AVOID THE SPECTRE OF REPRESSION, OR RECALL TOO VIVIDLY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF 1966-73. STATEMENTS ISSUED BY THE ARMY, PRINCIPALLY FROM V BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS IN TUCUMAN (BG VILAS) OR III CORPS HQ IN CORDOBA. (BG DELIA LAROCCA), HAVE STRESSED THIS IS A PRO-POPULAR EFFORT, THAT ARMY CALLED OUT TO ERADICATE "SUBVERSIVE DELINQUENTS" AND "RESTORE CALM TO THE POPULATION"; AND DEFEND THE PEOPLE'S LEGITIMATE RIGHTS. THE ARMY IN EFFECT APOLOGIZED AHEAD OF TIME FOR WHAT IT TERMED "INCONVENIENCES TO THE POPULATION, WHICH WILL BE REDUCED TO THE MINIMUM NECESSARY." ARMY LEADERS APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC FOR PATRIOTIC SUPPORT, CASTING THE NEW ARMY ACTIONS AS BEING "THE MANDATE OF THE MAJORITY." THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT EXHORTED PUBLIC TO "DEFEND THEIR PRESENT AND FUTURE AGAINST IMPORTED SUBVERSION" ALONGSIDE ARMY. IN ANOTHER STATEMENT BG VILAS (V BDE) RECALLED POPULAR ELECTION OF GOVEROGENT IN 1973, BELIED "SUBVERSIVE MINORITIES" CLAIM TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE," AND CALLED ON PEOPLE TO HELP ARMY AND DEFEND THEIR GOVERNMENT.

3. (U) AN ARMY COMMUNIQUE ON WED, FEB 12, FROM II CORPS HQ STATED THAT ARMY HAD CAPTURED KEY MEMBERS OF SUBVERSIVE GROUPS, BUT DID NOT IDENTIFY THEM. TROOPS WERE SAID TO BE WELCOMED BY POPULACE IN ZONE OF OPERATIONS. STATEMENT WENT ON TO SAY THAT PRESENCE OF "MERCENARY ELEMENTS FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES" HAD BEEN DETECTED, AND THAT YOUNG GUERRILLA RECRUITS, AGED 12-16, HAD BEEN DESERTING GUERRILLAS AND HIDING OUT. THERE IS NO DATA YET ON THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE ARMY CAMPAIGN, WHICH IS BEING CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH GENDARMERIE, FEDERAL POLICE, PROVINCIAL POLICE OF TUCUMAN, CATAMARCA, SALTA, AND SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO PROVINCES AND COOPERATION OF OTHER ARMED FORCES. A III CORPS STATEMENT SAID RESULTS SO FAR ARE "HIGHLY POSITIVE" BUT DID NOT SPECIFY FURTHER.

CMT: (FOUO) ARMY IS TAKING GREAT PAINS TO ASSURE THAT PUBLIC DOES NOT INTERPRET ACTIONS IN TUCUMAN AND ELSEWHERE AS REPRESSIVE. ARMY HAS VIRTUALLY APOLOGIZED FOR PROBLEMS CAUSED IN-

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HABITANTS IN ADVANCE, AND HAS REPEATEDLY APPEALED TO PUBLIC TO HELP THE ARMY SUSTAIN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE. THE ARMY HAS NOW OFFICIALLY ENTERED THE FRAY, MOVING UP A NOTCH FROM THE RETALIATION AND POLICE SUPPORT ROLES IT HAS HAD FOR MONTHS. A GOOD DEAL DEPENDS ON CONTINUED GOOD IMAGE FOR ARMY, WHICH IT HAS ASSIDUOULY CULTIVATED, AND AT LEAST A SHOW OF SUCCESS IN THE PRESENT MAJOR OPERATION IN TUCUMAN.
BT
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ANNOTES
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MULT 48423
ACTION DIA:
DTSTR CJCS DJS J3:(04) J5(02) NMCC SECDEF: ASD:ISA(10) :DIA(15)
NIC(01)
SECSTATE WASH DC
C I A
NSA MCCC CMC
CSAF WASH DC
CNO WASH DC
CSA WASH DC
FILE(1)
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TRANSIT/121845Z/122001Z/001:16TOR0431958
OE RUESBA #0156M 0431930
ZNY ~~CCCCC~~
P 121845Z FEB 75
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
RUEDEFA/USAFSO ALBROOK AFB CZ
RULSAA/USNVSO FT AMADOR CZ
RULPAKA/193RE INF BGDE FT AMADOR CZ
RUESLZ (b)(3):10 USC 424
RUESNA
RUESLM
BT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ NED 0156 FEB 75
THIS IS IR NO (b)(3):10 USC 424
1. ARGENTINA
2. TERRORISM IN NW ARGENTINA (U)
3. N/A
4. 1975 FEB 7
5. 1975 FEB 3-7
6. (b)(3):10 USC 424
7.
8.
9. 1975 FEB 7
10. (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(6)
11.
12.
13.
15. 1. ~~(C/NFD)~~ UNFORTUNATELY, NOW PUBLIC KNWOLEDGE THAT GOVT

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SECURITY FORCES ARE MOUNTING OPN AGAINST TERRORISTS IN NW ARGENTINA (TUCUMAN PROVINCE). MAN IN STREET AWARE THAT FEDERAL POLICE AND ARMY TROOPS ARE MOVING INTO AREA. MORE ALARMING IS INFO BEING ACCEPTED BY ARMY. SPECIFICALLY:
A. SOURCES SAY TERRORISTS HAVE 600-1000 PEOPLE IN TUCUMAN AREA. NUMBER OF COMBATANTS NOR FIRM AND MAY BE ON HIGH SIDE BUT POSSIBLY 4-600. TROOPS WELL TRAINED IN IRREGULAR FORCE OPNS, WELL EQUIPPED AND FIRM LOGISTICS BASE ESTABLISHED. TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING EQUIPMENT FROM PERU THRU BOLIVIA (TO INCLUDE CZECH AND RUSSIAN ITEMS) AND HAVE HEAVY WPNS (MORTARS AND HMGS), AAA AND POSSIBLY SOME GROUND TO AIR MISSILES, ONE HELICOPTER AND ONE OR MORE LT AIRCRAFT (THESE ITEMS ALLEGEDLY WERE RECD BOXED AND ASSEMBLED IN TUCUMAN).
B. TERRORISTS FULLY AWARE OF GOVT PLANS AND REACTING ACCORDINGLY (FOR EXAMPLE, CONTINENT OF FEDERAL POLICE HAD BIG SEND-OFF TODAY HERE IN BUENS AIRES - STREET FORMATION WITNESSED BY PUBLIC).
C. GOVT FORCES IN GENERAL NOT TRAINED IN COIN TYPE OPNS. OFFICER INSTRUCTORS FROM INFANTRY SCHOOL (CAMPO DE MAYO) AND JUNGLE OUTFITS HAVE BEEN FLOWN TO TUCUMAN AS ADVISORS TO REGULAR TROOP UNITS. THESE OFFICERS HAVE ADVISED AGAINST EMPLOYING REGULAR TROOPS IN JUNGLE AREA OF TUCUMAN FOR FEAR THEY WILL SUFFER SEVERE LOSSES AT HANDS OF GUERRILLAS.
2. ~~(C/NFD)~~ CONJECTURE ON PART OF SOME ARMY INTEL OFFICERS IS THAT ERP VERY SERIOUS ABOUT OCCUPYING MORE AND MORE TERRAIN IN NW ARGENTINA, CONCENTRATING ON URBAN SUCCESSES IN CITIES OF BUENOS AIRES, CORDOBA, MENDOZA, ROSARIO, TUCUMAN, SALTA AND JUJUY AND RURAL SUCCESSES IN PROVINCES OF SALTA, JUJUY AND TUCUMAN - FINAL OBJECT BEING INTIAL OCCUPATION OF 3 NW PROVINCES TO CONTINUE TOWARD SE UNTIL LAND ABOVE CITIES OF BUENOS AIRES - ROSARIO-CORDOBA-MENDOZ IS IN HANDS OF LEFTISTS. SOURCES ADMIT THIS IS NOWHERE NEAR A REALITY, BUT THAT IT IS THEIR ESTIMATE OF EVENTUAL TERRORIST GOAL, WITH LEFTIST SUPPORT CONTINUING TO BE CHANNELED INTO AREA FROM PERU THRU BOLIVIA - SOME SOURCES ARE EVEN TALKING OF A NORTH ARGENTINA - SOUTH ARGENTINA (A LA VIETNAN) WITH HO CHI MINH TRAIL TYPE OPN FROM NEUTRAL AREAS OF PERU-BOLIVIA.
3. ~~(C/NFD)~~ WHILE INFO PARA TWO OF DOUBTFUL VALIDITY, INFO IN PARA ONE DOES SHOW TERRORISTS ARE NOT LETTING UP IN EFFORTS TO CAUSE CHAOS AND GOVT DOWFALL. TERRORIST CHOICE OF NW ARGENTINA FOR BATTLE-GROUND BEST POSSIBLE FOR VARIETY OF REASONS (UNHAPPY POPULACE, UNEMPLOYMENT, TERRAIN, MINORITY PROBLEMS, DISTANCE FROM MAJOR POPULATION/GOVT/INDUSTRIAL AREA OF BUENOS AIRES

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AND NEARNESS TO SAFEHAVEN IN BOLIVIA).
4. ~~(C/NFD)~~ FURTHERMORE, [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424 SPECIAL FORCES-TYPE ARGENTINE SPECIALISTS THAT REGULAR GOVT SECURITY FORCES DO NOT HAVE PROPER EQUIPMENT NOR TRAINING TO FIGHT GUERRILLAS. IF GOVT PERSISTS IN TRYING TO SURROUND TERRORISTS IN TUCUMAN THE TERRORISTS (SHOULD THEY CHOOSE TO STAND AND FIGHT) CAN GIVE THE SECURITY FORCES A STIFF FIGHT. ~~NOFORN TO AVOID COMPROMISE OF SOURCES IN UNIQUE POSITION. DOS DEC 01.~~
BT
#0156
ANNOTES
JFW 117

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